ABSTRACT OF THE INVENTION

The present invention provides a method and apparatus for performing line qualification tests, and binning the results of such testing. The lines are tested to determine or estimate various characteristics of the line. Physical characteristics of the line may be estimated (e.g. line length, line gauge, insertion loss). The presence of devices on the line such as load coils, bridged taps, terminations and the like may also be determined. A prediction of the data rate the loop can support is made from the measured and estimated line conditions. The results are binned according to certain criteria and to provide an easily discernable status of the line. The binning can be performed by a computer using software designed specifically for this purpose. The binned results may include a first category indicating the line cannot support a certain level of high speed access. The binned results may also include a second category indicating the line can support a certain level of high speed access. The results may also include a third category indicating the line cannot currently support a certain level of high speed access but would be able to upon removal of an impediment. A fourth category indicating the characteristics of the selected line fall outside the area of coverage of the test system may also be included. Each category may be assigned a respective color in order to make the status of the line easily discernable. The testing and binning may be performed for a variety of different high speed access levels. Customers can be charged different rates dependent upon the level of service made available to them.